Message Text

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DEPT FOR UNDER SECRETARY/POL AFFAIRS HABIB FROM CHARGE GENEVA FOR LOWENSTEIN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, UN OVIP (LOWENSTEIN, ALLARD) SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF ALLARD LOWENSTEIN

REF: STATE 046637

1. THE ALLARD LOWENSTEIN VISIT COULD BE USEFUL IN UNDERSLINING US OPENNESS TOWARD THE DEMOCRATIC LEFT (WITH WHOM WE HAVE BROAD CONTACTS), AND HIS SPANISH FRIENDS WOULD CERTAINLY BE GLAD TO SEE HIM.

2. RE TIMING, THE SCHEDULE PROPOSED IS AGREEABLE TO US, BUT A LATER VISIT COULD BE BETTER. WE ARE APPROACHING ONE OF THOSE PERIODIC CLIMAXES IN THE SPANISH POLITICAL PROCESS IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT, FOLLOWING ITS CONSULTATION WITH ALL DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL SECTORS, WILL ANNOUNCE THE ELECTROL LAW, WHICH WILL PROVIDE THE POLTICAL RULES OF THE ROAD FOR THE ELECTIONS. UNTIL THAT IS DONE, POLITICAL GROUPINGS AND POSITIONS ARE VERY FLUID, AND ALL POLITICIANS ARE TALKING HYPOTHETICALLY IN LARGE PART. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ELECTORAL LAW MAY WELL COME JUST ABOUT THE PROPOSED TIME FOR THE VISIT. IT WILL PRODUCE AN ACCENTUATED DEGREE OF POLITICAL POSTURING CONFIDENTIAL

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AND SCURRYING TO AND FRO FOR A TIME. THE PRESS MIGHT BE PARTICULARLY TEMPTED THEN TO PAINT MR. LOWENSTEIN'S VISIT AS A SPECIAL INSPECTION TRIP ON THE POLITICAL PROSS. IF HE WERE TO BE AVAILABE IN APRIL, WITH THE PROCESS FULLY UNDER WAY, IT MIGHT BE BETTER. BUT IF AN APRIL VISIT IS INCONVENINET, WE ARE HAPPY TO GO AHEAD WITH THE MARCH 15-16 DATES.

3. SO FAR AS THE CHARACTER OF THE VISIT IS CONCERNED, WE THINK IT WELL NIGH IMPOSSIBLE TO PORTRAY THE HEAD OF A US DELEGATION TO A MAJOR UN BODY AS A SIMPLE PRIVATE CITIZEN. WE WOULD PROPOSE, CONSEQUENTLY, TO MAKE A FINE BUT IMPORTANT DISTINCTION BY SAYING THAT ALLARD LOWENSTEIN IS MAKING A STOPOVER OF A PRIVATE CHARACTER AND IS SEEING OLD FRIENDS. WE WOULD NOT SEEK PUBLICITY. WE WOULD PLAN TO MENTION THE VISIT TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN ADVANCE AND RESPOND TO PRESS INQUIRIES IN THE ABOVE VEIN. HOWEVER, THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT BUT THAT HIS VISIT WOULD BECOME PUBLIC, WHATEVER WE DO.

4. WE WOULD PROPOSE TO HAVE RAY CALDWELL, THE POLITICAL OFFICER WHO DEALS WITH THE DEMOCRATIC LEFT ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS, HANDLE THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR APPOINTMENTS. IN THIS CONNECTION, IT WILL BE USEFUL TO HAVE THE NAMES OF THE PEOPLE MR. LOWENSTEIN WOULD LIKE TO SEE AS FAR IN ADVANCE AS POSSIBLE.EATON

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